



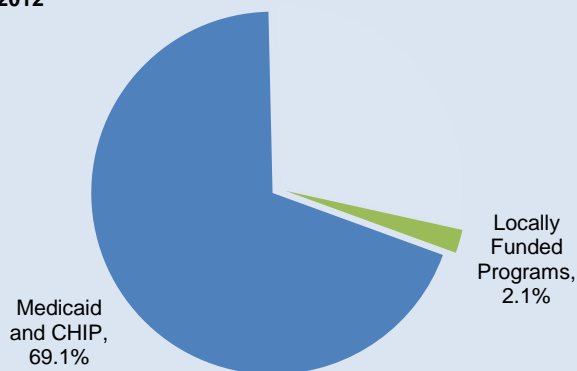
## Data Snapshot: The Role of Public Programs in Children's Health Care Coverage in the District of Columbia

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The District of Columbia provides health care coverage through publicly financed programs for a substantial majority of the children living in the District. This snapshot provides data regarding the levels of public coverage among District children in calendar year 2012. Highlights include:

- More than 70% of children in DC were covered by publicly funded health care coverage programs in 2012;
- The vast majority of these children are covered by programs jointly funded by the District and the federal government (Medicaid and CHIP);
- Coverage levels vary by age group, with the highest rate of coverage among children in the 6- to 12-year-old age group (not controlling for income).

**Figure 1. District Children, Ages 0-20, Covered by Publicly Financed Health Care Coverage Programs, by Program, CY2012**



More than two out of three District children ages zero through 20 were covered by publicly financed health care coverage during calendar year (CY) 2012, as shown in Figure 1. The coverage for most of them (97%) was delivered through the Medicaid program (including a CHIP expansion), jointly financed by the District and federal governments. The coverage for the remaining three percent was financed by local District funds only, through the Immigrant Children's Program and/or the DC Health Care Alliance (for those 18 and older).

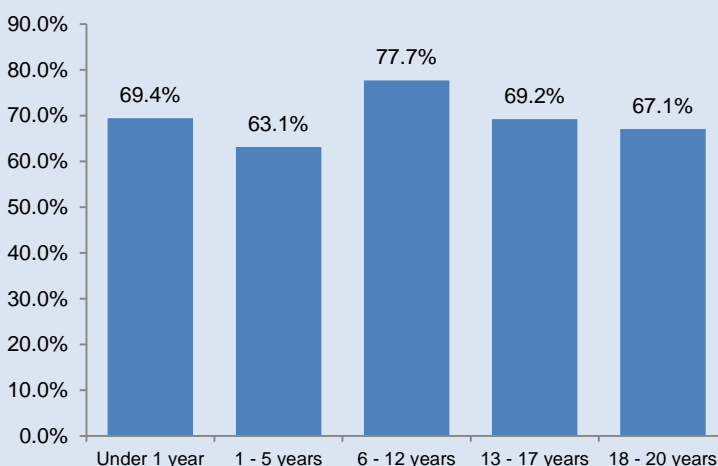
Figure 1 shows the average monthly enrollment in these programs as a proportion of the District's total population ages zero through 20, regardless of income, during CY 2012. This measure is included to demonstrate the likely ongoing "point-in-time" coverage among District children, or

the proportion of District children who are enrolled in publicly financed coverage programs on any given day of the year. Average total monthly enrollments for this age group are exceptionally stable.<sup>1</sup> Due to children moving in and out of the District, new births or changes in family circumstances, the total number of children "ever enrolled" during CY 2012 is approximately 15% higher than any given month's enrollment. Thus, the proportion of District children covered by public programs at any time during the year is likely larger than 71%.<sup>2</sup>

Coverage was also assessed by age group.<sup>3</sup> Generally, coverage levels are highest among children ages 6 to 12 years, with lower proportions of older children and of very young children covered by public programs. These coverage levels are shown in Figure 2 at right.

Note that these coverage levels are shown for **all** District children, not only those children who are eligible for publicly funded health care coverage. Other research<sup>4</sup> has shown almost 95% Medicaid and CHIP participation among eligible children in the District.

**Figure 2. District Children, Ages 0-20, with Enrollment in Publicly Financed Health Care Coverage During CY2012, by Age Group**



**Data Sources:** The data shown here are drawn from enrollment data in the District's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and from 2012 Census data collected via the Current Population Survey (CPS). Differences in the way data are collected for these two data sources may result in minor reporting errors. The data provided here were compiled by staff in the Division of Research and Rate-Setting Analysis, Health Care Policy and Research Administration, DC Department of Health Care Finance. MMIS data were extracted in April, 2013. For more information, contact DHCF at 202-442-5988.

<sup>1</sup> Monthly values for this period had standard deviations of less than 0.2% of the total average enrollment.

<sup>2</sup> Census data for the total population provides only an annual point-in-time estimate of the District's population; thus, an estimation of the denominator corresponding to the "ever enrolled" figure is unavailable.

<sup>3</sup> MMIS enrollments for May were compared to CPS estimates, which are collected in late spring.

<sup>4</sup> Kenney, G., Anderson, N., and Lynch, V. (2013). Medicaid/CHIP Participation Rates Among Children: An Update. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.